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THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES BY SEX, NATIVITY AND RACE.

BY

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The Census Office has recently published a bulletin giving the classification of the population by the above elements, and the results are of great interest, as showing modifications of the population during the past decade, much of which has been a period of great business depression. Such depressions commonly produce marked effects upon peoples subjected to them.

During the decade from 1890 to 1900, while the total population has increased from 63,069,756 to 76,303,387, or at the rate of 21 per cent., negroes have increased from 7,488,788 to 8,840,789, or at the rate of but 18.1 per cent. The corresponding rate of increase for the white population is 21.4 per cent., and for the native whites 23.3 per cent. The proportion of negroes has diminished during the ten years from 11.9 per cent. to 11.6 per cent. As heretofore, the race is not holding its own proportionally with the whites, although its relative diminution is not as great as in the preceding decade.

The proportion of negroes has increased in many northern States, where they form only a small element of the population; but in all of the southern States, in which they form an element of magnitude, their proportion has diminished, with the exception of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. The movement of the race appears to have been both southward and northward, involving a notable reduction in the proportion of negroes in the border and south Atlantic States.

The number of the foreign-born has increased from 9,308,091 to 10,460,085—an increase of 12.4 per cent. only, and a reduction in the proportion which their number bears to the total population from 14.8 per cent. in 1890 to 13.7 per cent. in 1900. This result was to have been expected, inasmuch as immigration has been largely reduced during the decade; and while we have no measure of the number of returning immigrants, it must have been large.

Of all the States and Territories eight only show an increase in the proportion of the foreign-born during the decade. These are Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut,

New Jersey, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma. With the exception of the last two all these are northeastern States, lying upon the seaboard. In all the other States of the Union the proportion of foreign-born has diminished.

But the effect of reduction in immigration and the return of immigrants, due to the business depression, was still more marked than this. In no fewer than fifteen States, viz.: Maryland, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Nevada, the proportion of the foreign-born has actually diminished. As will be noted, many of these are States in which the foreign-born element is in great strength. With the exception of Maryland and South Carolina they lie in the interior of the country, most of them being in the upper portion of the Mississippi valley.

The population is distributed as regards sex on almost exactly the same lines as ten years before, the proportion of males being 51.2 per cent. and that of females 48.8 per cent. The distribution of the sexes by States shows only two trifling changes from that in 1890, Connecticut having an excess of males instead of an excess of females, while in Georgia the case is reversed. Nearly all the States of the Atlantic seaboard, as heretofore, contain an excess of females; while west of them the States, in unbroken series, contain an excess of males, such excess being greatest in the Rocky Mountain region.

Among the native-born whites males are slightly in excess, there being 51 per cent. of that sex to 49 per cent. of females. Among the foreign-born the proportion of males is 54 per cent., that of females 46 per cent. The proportion of males in this class shows a slight reduction from that of ten years ago, when it was 55 per cent. The negroes are divided almost equally between males and females, females being in excess to the extent of a fraction of 1 per cent. only.

The Chinese have diminished in number from 126,778 in 1890 to 119,050 in 1900. They have scattered widely over the country, instead of living, as in 1890, almost entirely on the Pacific coast. In 1890 there were in California 72,472; while in 1900 the number in this State had diminished to 38,841.

The number of Japanese has increased from 2,039 to 56,786, 33,905 of which number were in Hawaii.